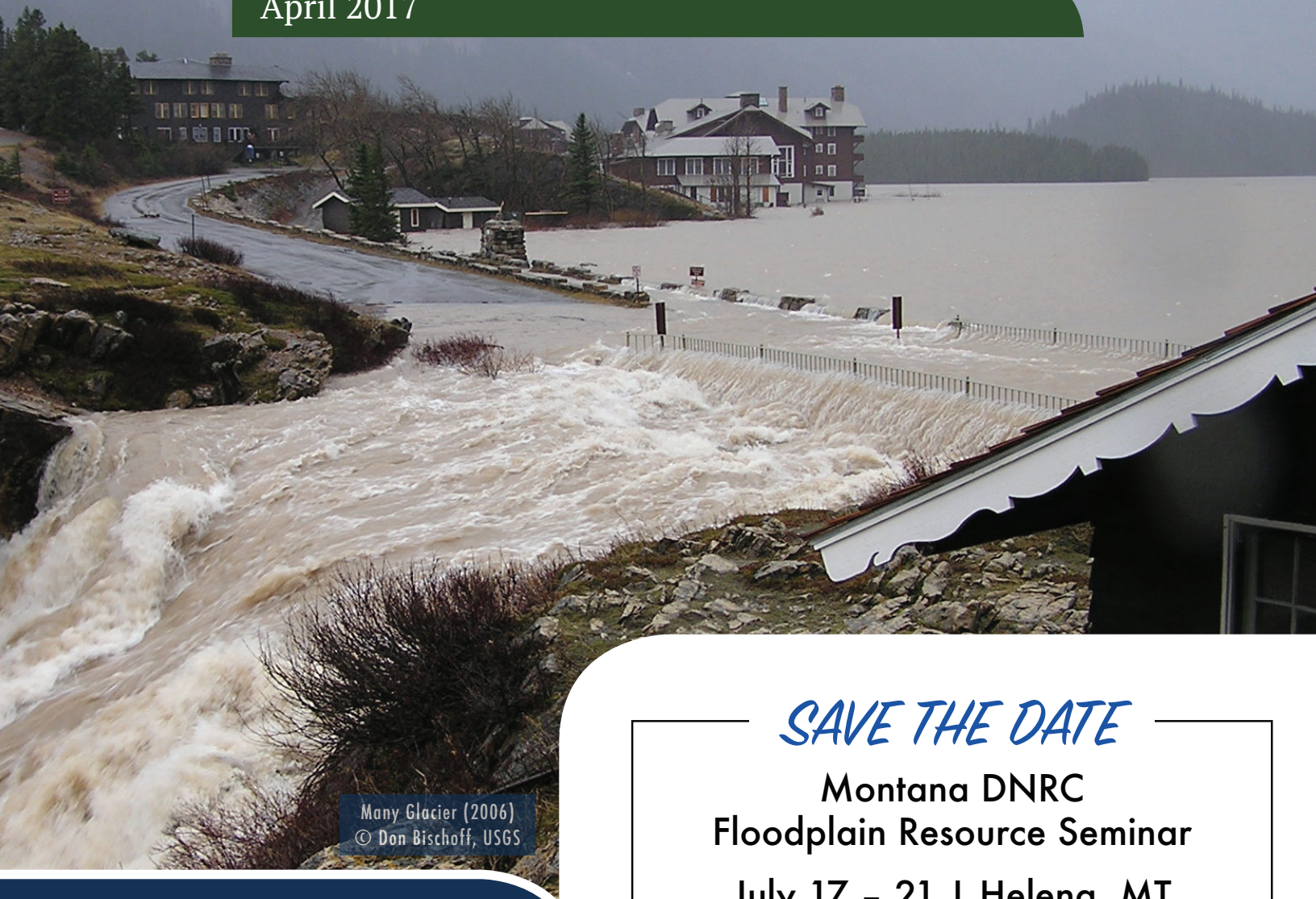


MONTANA HIGHGROUND

April 2017



Many Glacier (2006)
© Don Bischoff, USGS

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SAVE THE DATE

Montana DNRC
Floodplain Resource Seminar

July 17 – 21 | Helena, MT

Offered free of charge

THANK YOU

To AMFM for putting on another
wonderful annual conference.
It was great seeing everyone!

Get the recap on Page 5

HIGH WATER MARKS—A MONTANA SILVER JACKETS PROJECT

Tony Krause, US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha, MT

Recognition and response flood risk is a common problem. Flood events have occurred in Montana many times, the most recently in 2011 and 2013. However, many residents easily forget the concerns of flood risk. Isolated flooding from year to year has been widely publicized. Unfortunately, this can lead those who did not experience flooding to further their belief that they are not at risk.

High Water Marks signage is a tool that can be used in connection with an overall outreach effort to remind the public of ongoing flood risk. By placing signs in high visibility areas recognition of flood risk can become a common activity. When linked with online resources that provide a personal connection this effect is compounded. Historical photos of flooding—especially those containing people, pets, or personal property—provide an instant recognition that the flood threat is real and it has notable adverse consequences.



The Montana Silver Jackets team, in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society, is initiating a project with the objective to develop a High Water Mark signage program throughout the state with forty new High Water Mark signs. These signs will include historical information and provide links to two online resources. One online resource will provide information on the historic flooding of the area (<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/states/mt-flood.shtml>). Another online resource currently in development is the Montana Silver Jacket Flood Risk Communication Webtool.

Installation and unveiling of these signs will be coordinated at the local level. Resources will be provided to communities to encourage a public notice through local news and/or outreach to local schools.

Some community benefits of High Water Mark signs include:

- A reminder that in times of flooding certain areas are dangerous and should be avoided
- A clearer understanding of flood risks for property owners and community officials
- An increase in interest in the National Flood Insurance Program and flood insurance, in general
- More interest in development of robust flood response plans by the local community
- An increase in CRS credits to those communities in the Community Rating System
- An improvement in community and personal resilience to recover from disaster



Flood aftermath in Lewistown, MT

GET A HIGH WATER MARK SIGN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

We are looking for locations throughout the state of Montana to place signs and provide information on historic flooding via web content. These signs will serve as a physical reminder of a community's flood risk and history of flooding.

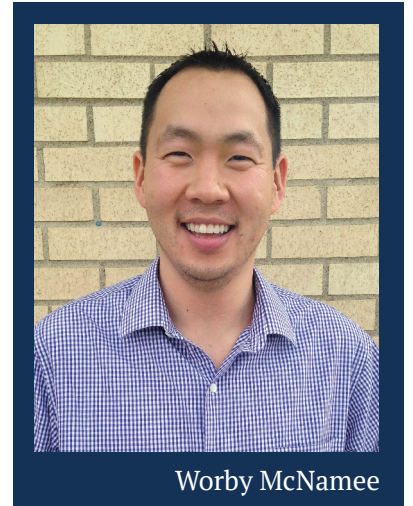
VISIT WWW.FLOODPLAIN.MT.GOV/SILVER-JACKETS TO APPLY TODAY!

STAFF CHANGES: WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

WELCOME TO WORBY MCNAMEE

Worby was hired in January by the DNRC's Floodplain Program as a Water Conservation Specialist, serving both the Community Assistance Program and Mapping Units. Worby assists with community outreach while also providing technical and program support. He brings an insurance background with him to the DNRC, having worked most recently for the Casualty Actuarial Society in Arlington, Virginia.

Worby is an alumnus of Marymount University in Arlington, VA where he received a B.A. in Liberal Studies. When he is not in the office, you can either find him out running around Helena or on the golf course. In the office, Worby can be reached at (406) 444-1343 or worby.mcnamee@mt.gov.



CHANGES AT FEMA REGION VIII

SEAN MCNABB | Please join us in saying a very fond farewell to Sean McNabb from FEMA Region VIII. Over the years, Sean has provided excellent support to the DNRC's Floodplain Mapping Unit, including overseeing many FEMA Risk MAP projects throughout Montana. We wish him the best as he moves on to greener pastures at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC.

DAVID SUTLEY | We are happy to welcome David Sutley to working with our state. David has recently taken up Sean McNabb's reins as FEMA's Risk MAP project leader for Montana. He and Sean will work together as Sean transitions away from his Montana duties.

JEFF HERD | We are also happy to welcome Jeff Herd to working with our state. Jeff was recently hired by FEMA Region VIII as the Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief. Jeff has jumped right into this position, already providing excellent assistance to Montana's communities.

LOCAL FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATORS

ROB MACIOROSKI | Beaverhead County Floodplain Administrator

We happy to welcome Rob Macioroski to the floodplain world. He took over Floodplain Administrator and Planning Director duties from Rick Hartz at Beaverhead County back in March (and Rick is now happily retired).

CARL HAMMING, CFM | Powell County Floodplain Administrator

We are proud to announce that Carl Hamming, Powell County Planning Director, has recently taken on Floodplain Administrator duties for Powell County, as well. Carl also passed his CFM exam last month at AMFM in Missoula. Congrats, Carl!

LOMA DETERMINATION FOR REMOVAL

Marijo Brady, FEMA Region VIII, Denver, CO

STRUCTURE VERSUS METES & BOUNDS

The floodplain administrator should be aware of and BE TRACKING those LOMA/LOMR-F determinations (for removal) for a structure versus metes and bounds. WHY? An addition to a structure removed by a LOMA is still in the floodplain!!! It still requires a floodplain permit AND any lateral addition, regardless of size, would need to be elevated to +2 BFE.

A portion of the property removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area by metes and bounds means there is still a portion of the property IN the SFHA. How do you know where the “line” is? Require that property owner/surveyor demark the metes and bounds boundary to ensure the new building is not straddling the line (yes, that happens). If building straddles line, the building is considered “in” and flood insurance will be required (and the LOMA is superseded (i.e. voided)).

- ◆ If a building is removed from the floodplain by the LOMA/LOMR-F process and is later torn down
 - a) Do you need a permit to demolish? OR
 - b) Do you need a new floodplain development permit to build a new building?

The answer is YES to both because the LOMA was for the ORIGINAL structure, not the new one.

- ◆ What if a previously LOMA-ed out building is torn down but the foundation is “re-used” with no change in footprint? Should a floodplain development permit be required? The answer is YES because it is new construction!!!

For communities with GIS, it is a simple effort to record LOMA outcomes by shape and/or color. You could distinguish LOMA removals by structure, metes and bounds, or full lot. A reminder to the floodplain administrator: as part of administering and enforcing the National Flood Insurance Program, you should be routinely monitoring the floodplain in order to capture unpermitted activities.



FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR NOT GETTING COPIES OF LOMCS?

At the community level, LOMCs are sent to the Map Repository (floodplain administrator – bet you didn’t know you were the map repository!!!!). LOMA contractors use the Mapping Information Platform, which talks to Community Information System (CIS). The CIS is maintained by the NFIP side of the house.

**TALK TO YOUR STATE NFIP COORDINATOR (TRACI SEARS) OR
FEMA SPECIALIST (MARIJO BRADY) IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING COPIES OF LOMCS.**

MEETING IN MISSOULA—AMFM ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

Michelle Phillips, Montana DNRC, Helena, MT



ASSOCIATION OF
Montana
FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS

Conference presentations are available by contacting AMFM or by visiting the DNRC website: www.floodplain.mt.gov/training

The 18th Annual Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM) Conference was held this year in downtown Missoula. Those in attendance experienced a full agenda of timely and interesting presentations as well as some great opportunities for networking at evening socials. Floodplain professionals came together from all parts of Montana (and even Canada!) to learn from one another at both conference sessions and in the evenings over a few beers.

This year's conference was a great success because of those who took the time to put it together. We want to thank the AMFM Board for their hard work in this regard. Once again, the Board, led by the great Lisa Oedewaldt and Larry Schock, brought together great sponsors, attendees, and presenters.

AMFM challenges anyone, especially local Floodplain Administrators, to consider doing a presentation in 2018 and/or to get more involved with AMFM. Also, if you did not attend the conference, you should consider attending next year in Great Falls. There's something in it for everyone in the floodplain world!



Adam Carlson, Musselshell County Floodplain Administrator, passes out Mitigate or Die!! shirts after his presentation (above). Below, conference attendees enjoy a session (left) and Montana DNRC staff pose with their Canadian counterparts from the Government of Alberta (right).

SEE YOU IN 2018 IN GREAT FALLS



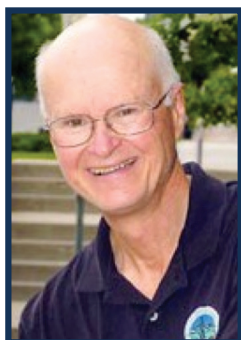
2017 DNRC Awards



PAM VOSEN | LEWIS & CLARK LOCAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGER AWARD

Recognizing outstanding contributions to floodplain management at the local level

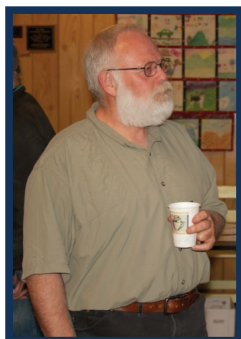
Not only does Pam serve as the Deputy DES Coordinator and Floodplain Administrator for Fergus County, she also oversees the planning department, GIS, rural addressing, IT, the County website, and other duties as assigned. In her “free” time, she also provides planning and floodplain administration assistance to the towns of Moore and Denton. She navigates her responsibilities to multiple areas with thoroughness, efficiency, and diplomacy, all while adhering to regulations and maintaining program compliance. Her communities are lucky to have the assistance of such a dedicated professional.



PAUL SPENGLER | LEWIS & CLARK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizing a distinguished career based on outstanding contributions to local floodplain management

Paul has held the positions of Floodplain Administrator and DES Coordinator for Lewis & Clark County since 1981 and 1979, respectively. Additionally, Paul is now also the County's Safety Coordinator, the LEPC Chair, and the CRS Coordinator. Throughout his long career, Paul has helped create a strong coordination between emergency managers and floodplain administrators. Next year, while we are speculating about flooding, Paul and his beautiful bride will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary gallivanting around the world to exotic locations. DNRC would like to sincerely thank Paul for all of his contributions to the Montana floodplain world—he will be missed!



RICK HARTZ | LEWIS & CLARK PROGRAM AMBASSADOR AWARD

Recognizing outstanding efforts for advocating sound floodplain management principles

Rick demonstrated great leadership and cooperative efforts in the Big Hole River Floodplain Mapping Project and the Beaverhead County Floodplain Mapping Project. He was instrumental in providing resources and input while coordinating with DNRC and other stakeholders during these mapping projects. Additionally, he recently took over the role of floodplain administrator for Beaverhead County. The Montana DNRC commends Rick for his myriad efforts and achievements in his career and wishes him the best in his retirement.



SEAN MCNABB | LEWIS & CLARK FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM APPRECIATION AWARD

Recognizing outstanding efforts in support of Montana's State and Local Floodplain Programs

During his tenure at FEMA Region VIII, Sean has provided excellent support to the DNRC's Floodplain Mapping Unit, including overseeing many FEMA Risk MAP projects throughout Montana. Most recently, Sean has been integral in moving forward mapping projects in Gallatin County, the City of Bozeman, and on the Musselshell River. Sean's cool demeanor and ability to explain technical concepts to a wide audience have been a real asset to FEMA Region VIII and to our state. We wish him the best as he moves on to greener pastures at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC.

Congrats and thanks to all!

PROGRAM CHANGES AND REMINDERS

Michelle Phillips, Montana DNRC, Helena, MT



NFIP INSURANCE MANUAL CHANGES

Highlights of the Program Changes effective April 1, 2016, include the following:

- Updated premium rates conforming to the premium rate caps established by BW-12 and HFIAA;
- Updated premium multiplier tables for policies rated under the Newly Mapped procedure; and
- Clarifications for policy rating and loss adjustment for Pre-Flood Insurance Rate Map substantially improved properties.

Latest FEMA Flood Insurance Manual: www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-manual

FEMA Changes Memo (with attachments): <http://nfipiservice.com/Stakeholder/pdf/bulletin/w-16071.html>



REGIONAL ENGINEER REVIEW OF FLOODPLAIN PERMITS

Two important reminders for Floodplain Administrators about the Regional Engineers' floodplain permit review process:

- 1. Please completely fill out the first page of the [Floodplain Permit Review Checklist](#) before submitting a request for review to your DNRC Regional Engineer.**

This will greatly expedite the review process for your Regional Engineer (whose time for such reviews is limited).

- 2. It is the Floodplain Administrator's responsibility to make the decision on a permit and communicate that decision in a clear, timely manner to the applicant.**

Although your DNRC Regional Engineer may assist you with the permit review process, the community is the regulatory body for floodplain permits. Forwarding a Regional Engineer's review to an applicant is acceptable but be sure to add your decision and rationale with the Regional Engineer's review.

Contact your DNRC Regional Engineer or DNRC Floodplain Program staff with any questions.
Contact info is on the last page of the newsletter.





TRAININGS AND MEETINGS

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO A DISASTER EVENT

Thursday, May 25, 2017 | Best Western Great Northern Hotel, Helena, MT

This full-day training event, offered free of cost, will be taught by Mississippi's National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. The event is aimed at Montana's Floodplain Administrators, Emergency Managers, and State employees.



We will post the agenda and registration by the end of April on our website: www.floodplain.mt.gov/training.

DNRC FLOODPLAIN RESOURCE SEMINAR

July 17-21, 2017 | Helena Community College, Helena, MT

We are expanding this year's resource seminar to cover more topics. Although the details are still being ironed out and there are many more sessions to add to the agenda, confirmed sessions include:

- HEC-RAS 2D
- Stream Restoration Workshop
- Floodplain Basics
- CFM Exam

We will post the agenda and registration by the end of May on our website: www.floodplain.mt.gov/training.

CONTACT MICHELLE PHILLIPS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS.

UPCOMING CFM EXAM DATES



WEEK OF JULY 17, 2017 | DETAILS TBA

DNRC Floodplain Resource Seminar

Helena Community College, Helena, MT

Information will be posted at www.floodplain.mt.gov/training in late May.

CONGRATS TO
MONTANA'S
MOST RECENT
CFMS

NICOLE DECKER • REBECCA FARREN • GREG GABEL
JERRY GREBENC • CARL HAMMING • SHAWN HIGLEY
ZACHARY KIRKEMO • WALTER LUDLOW • CALEB MINNICK
KARI NIELSEN • DANIEL RICHARDSON • JOSHUA ROBBINS
DONNA VALADE • GARY VERT

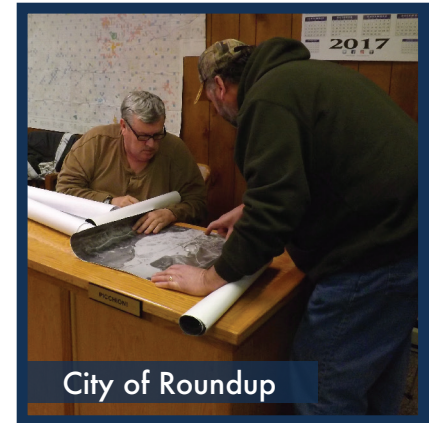
DNRC MAPPING UPDATE

MEETINGS GALORE!

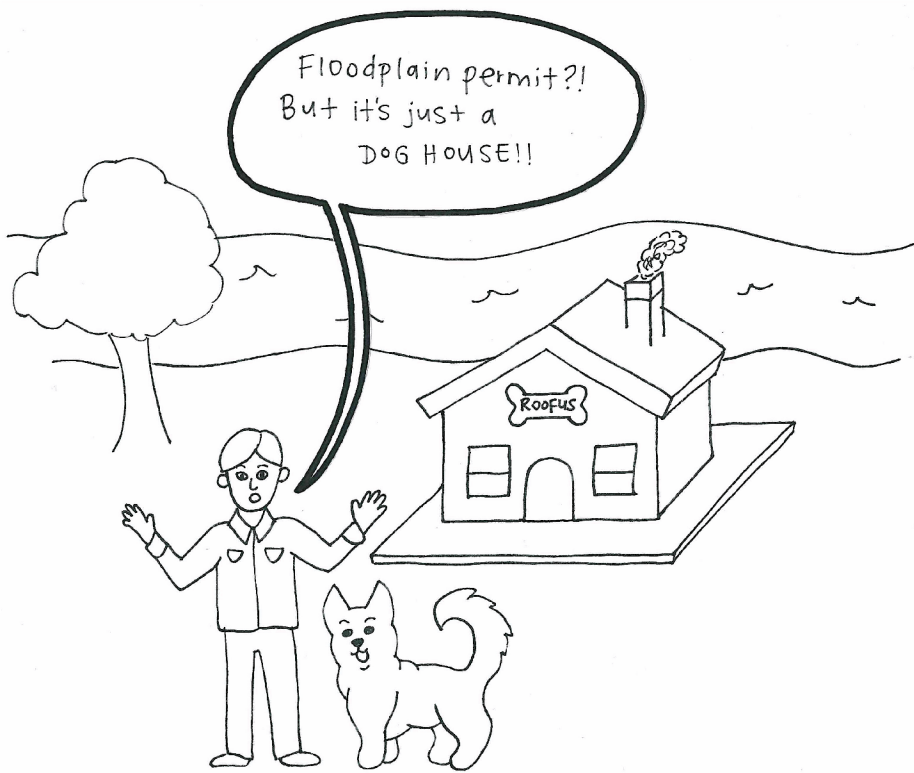
Already in 2017, the Floodplain Mapping Program has conducted several meetings and Open Houses for mapping projects. Professional road tripper Tiffany Lyden (with the help of her peers) has organized these efforts. Many more mapping meetings will follow as 2017 progresses! The photos show just a few of DNRC's meetings.

In 2017, we've held mapping meetings with:

- City of Bozeman
- Gallatin County
- City of Sidney
- Richland County
- City of Roundup
- Town of Ryegate
- Mineral County
- City of Dillon
- Beaverhead County



THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE HELPED WITH THESE MEETINGS!



QUESTIONS?

Contact your DNRC Floodplain Staff

ABOUT THE MONTANA HIGHGROUND

We are always accepting articles and ideas for this newsletter! Please email your contributions at anytime to mphillips2@mt.gov.

The Highground Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Montana DNRC Floodplain Program. This newsletter & other DNRC Floodplain Program activities are funded, in part, through grants from FEMA.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this document should contact the DNRC Public Information Officer at 406-444-0465.

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